are a number of tribal areas in Araku, Visakhapatnam and other areas, where there is illiteracy. Are there any plans to give more priority to the tribal and difficult areas? I would also like to know how much amount is being allocated for computer education in Andhra Pradesh, and how much you are going to give in future.

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति महोदय, आंध्र प्रदेश के लिए 1400 लाख रुपए निर्धारित किए गए हैं जो कि 75% हिस्सा है, जो कि हम देते हैं। इसमें से 700 लाख रुपए रिलीज हो चुके हैं और करीब 500 स्कूलों में यह स्कीम चल रही है। अगर कोई राज्य अपनी स्कीम देता है तो हम उस पर फिर विचार करेंगे।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, is it Rs. 14 lakhs or Rs. 1400 lakhs?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is Rs.1400 lakhs. It comes to Rs.14 crores. You calculate it.

Explosive devices in reserve forest

*183. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether high alert has been sounded in the Jim Corbett National Park, following recovery of explosive devices in the reserve forest;

(b) if so, the number of explosive devices recovered;

(c) whether an enquiry has been held to ascertain the facts and nab the culprits; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 17 crude ball shaped explosives were recovered on 14.6.2002 from the reserved forest, which is the buffer area lying on the southern periphery of Corbett Tiger Reserve.

(c) and (d) An enquiry is being conducted in the matter and support of police has been sought. Patrolling of police has been strengthened in the Tiger Reserve.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister that he has accepted the fact that 17 explosive devices were recovered from the Jim Corbett National Park. Sir, I would like to know what immediate action he had taken when he came to know that a country-made bomb

exploded there. Has any officer or watch and ward staff who were supposed to look after the Park been put under suspension? Sir, this news item was published in *The Hindu* on 18th of June. Almost 40 days are over. So far no report has been sought by the Ministry from the State Government. When is he likely to get that report and submit it to the House?

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, there was no human death as a result of this incident. When a surveillance staff of the Park heard some noise at 6 p.m. on that particular day and went to that particular place and noticed that three or four miscreants just running away. He retrieved only 17 ball like objects which had explosive materials consisting of sulphur and potash chemicals. This material is not used mainly for poaching of animals like tigers or elephants. Of course, it might be used to kill the wild boars which had caused damage to the crops in the nearby villages. An inquiry has been instituted by our officers, and a report has also been lodged with the police. We are awaiting a report from the police.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, in view of the terrorist activities spreading in different States, I would like to know whether the Government have made any contingent plan to ensure that such National Parks are not used for nefarious activities by unscrupulous elements.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Government is of the view that miscreants or poachers are not to be allowed entry into the National Parks. Security staff are always on the alert. The Prime Miniser himself has written to the Chief Ministers to enhance the strength of the security guards and to fill up the existing vacancies so that more of the security guards can be deployed there. In fact, we have sent 40 officers to the Police Academy to train people for this purpose. We are taking proper care to see that weapons are not allowed inside the Parks so that the wild life is protected properly.

श्री लालू प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पार्क में बम और पटाखे इसलिए रखे जाते हैं ताकि जंगली जानवर वहां से भागें और उनका अवैध शिकार किया जाए। महोदय, ऐसा देखा जाता है कि बाघ की कटी हुई गर्दन, बारह संघा व भालू का माथा और मृगछाला, टाइगर का स्किन बहुत बड़े-बड़े लोगों के घरों में, उनके ड्राइंग रूम में तथा जो साधु-संत और सिद्ध होते हैं उनके यहां पाया जाता है। महोदय, मुझे इसलिए आशंका है कि जब नियम, कानून और कायदा है कि कहीं भी शिकार नहीं किया जाएगा तो जहां-तहां इस तरह की मृगछाला है, टाइगर का कटा हुआ माथा लगाया गया है, बहुतों ने अपने घरों में टांग रखा है क्योंकि जिनके घरों

में हम जाते हैं और देखते भी हैं इन सब चीजों को, तो क्या इसके लिए सरकार कोई जांच कराकर के ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने का इरादा रखती है या नहीं रखती है? इसके रेड कराकर भी जांच कराई जाए।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this explosive is very light. It is just like a cracker. It is made up of sulphur and potash, Immersed in liquid wheat flour. They just bury it in the ground. Whenever the wild pigs come there and dig for the roots of the plants, it just gets exploded and the animals will die. That is all. The main purpose of planting the small explosive in the ground is just to catch or kill the animal, to take revenge on this particular animal. It is not uncommon. Everywhere, especially in Northern India, in almost all the forest areas, it happens. It is not a new thing. It is not a new state of affairs. It prevails everywhere. Our watch and ward are very alert and they capture this particular animal.

श्री लालू प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय। माननीय मंत्री जी जवाब को टाल गए हैं। यह जो बाघ का स्किन। हिरन का, भालू का। बारहासिंघा का कटे हुए माथे के बारे में मैंने पूछा था कि ऐसे लोगों के घरों की खुफिया डिपार्टमेंट के माध्यम से रेड कराकर पता लगाया जाए कि वह यह चीजें कहां से लाया। इसका तो आप जवाब नहीं दे रहे हैं, टाल रहे हैं आप इसको। तो इसकी जांच कराइए।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 envisages ....(*Interruptions*),

श्री राजीव रंजन सिंह ''ललन'': शिकार करने के कुछ मामले सी॰बी॰आई॰ के नेट में आए हैं।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, we have already empowered the CBI to raid and take action. In cases where the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act,1972 are flouted, the CBI can take direct action. They have been empowered by the Ministry both to apprehend violaters of law and to prosecute them. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provides for such legal action as Mr. Lalu Prasad was suggesting. They can go and raid anywhere. Whether it is Lalu Prasad Saheb's house or T.R. Baalu's house, the officers can go and raid and retrieve the animal skin.

SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKARAN: Sir, as far as the animals found in the National Parks and Zoos are concerned, now it is much more important to protect them. What is happening today is, whether it is the tiger or the elephant, its population is coming down, with the result that one of the best species that India has got is being lost. Therefore, my question is, what is the step, concrete step, which is being taken by the hon. Minister?

That is No. 1. Secondly, what is the type of training that is given even to the people, who have been employed to take care of these animals; This is also most important. Animals, as you know, are very senstive and they have to be protected by the two-legged animals all over. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what concrete steps are being taken by this Government. They cannot pass the responsibility on to the State Governments. The Central Government and the State Governments, both, have the responsibility, equally, to protect these animals.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. As per the 1987 survey, the tiger population was 3,508. At the moment, a survey is going on, and we compiling the figures. But, the rough figure shows that the population of tiger is 3,600 at the moment, and there is no depletion in the tiger population. As far as the population of elephants is concerned, in 1993, there were 26,000 elephants. Now, the number has increased to 28,000. So, the population of tigers and elephants has not depleted.

As far as the second part of his question is concerned, we have empowered the CBI to take action under the Wildlife Protection Act. The funding pattern has been upgraded. In the Ninth Plan, Rs. 439 crores were provided for this purpose. In the Tenth Plan, we have provided Rs. 800 crores, which shows that there is 100 per cent increase in the allocation. Forty officers were sent for short capsule course to the National Police Academy, Hyderabad. We have put several species of molluscs in Schedule 1 to prevent marine fauna. To get a greater support of the local communities in wildlife conservation, "Amrita Devi Bishnoi Award", which carries a cash award of Rs. one lakh, has been instituted. Steps for notification of elephant reserves and their management on Scientific lines are being taken up. With a view to curb illegal trade in ivory, India and Kenya Jointly moved a proposal to put a global ban on trade in ivory. The resolution was adopted by the parties to the CITES Convention in April, 2000 at Nairobi. The Ministry continues to implement the "Project Tiger" effectively, and four new Project Tiger areas were added, bringing the total area to 37,761 sq. kms.

श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: माननीय सभापति जी, जिम कार्बेट नेशनल पार्क में 17 गोले पाये जाना बहुत ही खतरनाक स्थिति है। यह स्थिति इसलिए भी खतरनाक हो गई है कि पिछले वर्ष में 8 हाथी राजाजी नेशनल पार्क में मारे गये हैं। जंगलात में जो कच्ची सड़कें बना रखी हैं, वे सड़कें

बारिश होने पर पहाडी नालों से कट जाती हैं और फिर वे जगह अपराधियों का स्वर्ग बन जाती हैं क्योंकि वहां पर किसी का सर्च नहीं हो पाता है। अभी ऐसी जानकारी मिली है कि बड़ी मात्रा में जिम कार्बेट पार्क में और राजाजी नेशनल पार्क में ऐसे अपराधी प्रवेश कर गए हैं जिनसे वहां के जीव-जंतुओं को खतरा पैदा हो गया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उन्हें इस विषय की जानकारी है? यदि जानकारी है तो इस पर उनकी क्या टिप्पणी है?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as the Jim Corbett National Park incident is concerned, a deputy ranger was shot dead by the miscreants on 28th August, 2001, and two guards were injured. As far as the other part of the question put by the hon. Member is concerned, we have not received any information in that regard. A sum of Rs. 5000/- has been given as *ex-gratia* payment to the families of the deceased person, and the Government is conscious of taking proper action in this regard.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Chairman of the Indian Board for Wildlife, I was closely involved with these projects. The Jim Corbett National Park had a very bad incident last year in which five or six elephants were massacred, their tusks were cut off, and a deputy ranger was killed. Now more than a year has elapsed. Have you not come to any conclusion on that? When is the Minister going to inform us about the action taken in this regard? If you cannot take action against the culprits for committing a crime in one of our major national parks and an outrage of that nature, how can you say that you are effectively protecting animals?

SHRI. T.R. BAALU: Sir, I appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member. Actually, inquiry is going on in this case, and as and when the report is submitted to me, I will pass on that information to the hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ASNWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Restrictions on Madarsas

*184. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: